LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method ~~for qualifying a participant in an electronic trading system~~, comprising:

applying a host qualification test to ~~the participant~~ a party to determine a credit ranking for the party with respect to a market;

applying a third party qualification test to the ~~participant~~ party, in which the third party qualification test ~~determines whether another participant that is qualified to trade in the electronic trading system qualifies the participant~~ includes:

determining for each of a plurality of participants in the market a minimum credit ranking necessary to trade with each respective participant in the market; and

comparing the party's credit ranking with each of the plurality of participants' credit rankings to determine if the party has sufficient credit ranking to trade with each respective participant; and

~~assigning qualification trading parameters to the participant based upon the host qualification test and the third party qualification test; and~~

~~determining whether the participant qualifies to trade in the electronic trading system~~ disallowing trades between the party and a respective participant when the party has insufficient credit ranking to trade with the respective participant.

Claims 2-37 (**Cancelled**).

38. (**Currently Amended**) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim 1, further comprising:

bypassing the applying the third party qualification test ~~step~~ when the ~~participant passes the host qualification test~~ party has sufficient credit ranking; and

allowing the party access to trade in the market.

39. (**Currently Amended**) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim [[38]] 1, ~~wherein applying a host qualification test to the participant further comprises applying a qualification test to the participant that evaluates at least two of~~ further comprising dynamically updating the party's credit ranking based on one or more of:

a measure of a number of trades made by the ~~participant~~ party in the market;

a measure of an amount of trades made by the ~~participant~~ party in the market;

a measure of volatility in [[a]] the market ~~in which the participant is participating~~;

a measure of a range of prices in the market ~~in which the participant is participating~~; and

a measure of volume in the market ~~in which the participant is participating~~.

40. (**Currently Amended**) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim [[38]] 1, ~~wherein applying a host qualification test to the participant~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

~~applying to the participant a qualification test that evaluates~~ determining whether the ~~participant~~ party ~~qualifies~~ is qualified to trade with a ~~second~~ first participant that is qualified to trade with a ~~third~~ second participant; and

~~determining whether the party qualifies to trade in the electronic trading system further comprises determining that~~ qualifying the ~~participant~~ party ~~qualifies~~ to trade ~~in the electronic trading system~~ with the ~~third~~ second participant based upon the ~~participant~~ party ~~qualifying~~ being qualified to trade with the ~~second~~ first participant.

41. (**Currently Amended**) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim 1, wherein the applying the host qualification test step[[,]] and the applying the third party qualification test step~~, the assigning the qualification trading parameters, and the determining whether the participant qualifies to trade~~ are performed only once when the ~~participant~~ party first enters [[a]] the market ~~in which the participant wishes to participate using the electronic trading system~~.

42. (**Currently Amended**) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim 1, wherein the applying the host qualification test step[[,]] and the applying the third party qualification test step~~, the assigning the qualification trading parameters, and the determining whether the participant qualifies to trade~~ are performed dynamically as the party ~~trading~~ trades in [[a]] the market ~~in which the participant is participating progresses~~.

43. (**Currently Amended**) A~~n method for qualifying a participant in an electronic trading system~~ apparatus, comprising:

means for applying a host qualification test to ~~the participant~~ a party to determine a credit ranking for the party with respect to a market;

means for applying a third party qualification test to the ~~participant~~ party, in which the third party qualification test ~~determining whether another participant that is qualified to trade in the electronic trading system qualifies the participant~~ includes:

> determining for each of a plurality of participants in the market a minimum credit ranking necessary to trade with each respective participant in the market; and

> comparing the party's credit ranking with each of the plurality of participants' credit rankings to determine if the party has sufficient credit ranking to trade with each respective participant; and

~~means for assigning qualification trading parameters to the participant based upon the host qualification test and the third party qualification test; and~~

means for ~~determining whether the participant qualifies to trade in the electronic trading system~~ disallowing trades between the party and a respective participant when the party has insufficient credit ranking to trade with the respective participant.

44. (**New**) The method of claim 1, further comprising denying the party access to the market if the party has insufficient credit ranking to trade with any of the plurality of participants.

45. (**New**) The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a credit limit for the party based on the party's credit ranking.

46. (**New**) The method of claim 45, further comprising disallowing a trade by the party when the trade exceeds the credit limit.

47. (**New**) The method of claim 45, further comprising sending an alerting message when the party is approaching the credit limit.

48. (**New**) The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a credit limit for the party with at least one of the plurality of participants.

49. (**New**) The method of claim 1, wherein the market is for trading a currency instrument.

50. (**New**) The method of claim 39, further comprising comparing the party's updated credit ranking with each of the plurality of participants' credit rankings to determine if the party has sufficient credit ranking to trade with each respective participant.

51. (**New**) The method of claim 50, further comprising disallowing trades between the party and a respective participant when the party's updated credit ranking is insufficient to trade with the respective participant.

52. (**New**) The method of claim 39, further comprising updating a credit limit for the party based on the party's updated credit ranking.

53. (**New**) The method of 42, wherein dynamically performing the steps includes updating the party's credit ranking as the party trades in the market.

54. (**New**) The method of claim 53, wherein dynamically performing the steps includes comparing the party's updated credit ranking with each of the plurality of participants' credit rankings to determine if the party has sufficient credit ranking to trade with each respective participant.

55. (**New**) The method of claim 54, further comprising disallowing trades between the party and a respective participant when the party's updated credit ranking is insufficient to trade with the respective participant.

56. (**New**) The method of claim 53, further comprising updating a credit limit for the party based on the party's updated credit ranking.

57. (**New**) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

applying a measure to one or more trades by the party to mark the trades to market;
and

using data related to the marked to market trades to dynamically update the party's
credit ranking.

58. (**New**) The method of claim 57, further comprising comparing the party's updated
credit ranking with each of the plurality of participants' credit rankings to determine if the
party has sufficient credit ranking to trade with each respective participant.

59. (**New**) The method of claim 58, further comprising disallowing trades between
the party and a respective participant when the party's updated credit ranking is insufficient
to trade with the respective participant.

60. (**New**) The method of claim 57, wherein the measure is an average weighted price
of trades in the market.

61. (**New**) The method of claim 1, further comprising disallowing a close-out of a
trade between the party and a respective participant when the party has insufficient credit
ranking with respect to the respective participant.

62. (**New**) A method, comprising:

applying a host qualification test to a party to determine a credit ranking for the party
with respect to a market;

applying a third party qualification test to the party, in which the third party
qualification test includes:

determining for each of a plurality of participants in the market a
minimum credit ranking necessary to trade with each respective participant in
the market; and

comparing the party's credit ranking with each of the plurality of
participants' credit rankings to determine if the party has sufficient credit
ranking to trade with each respective participant; and

allowing trades between the party and a respective participant when the party has
sufficient credit ranking to trade with the respective participant.